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A Building for the

International Peace Conference

Architecture

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1911

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A BUILDING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
PEACE CONFERENCE

BY

EDWARD ROY LUDWIG



THESIS

FOR

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN

ARCHITECTURE



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE, 1911

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IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

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A BUILDING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

General Discussion.

Before stating the program and describing this building, planned for the International Peace Conference, it will be of interest and value to outline, briefly, the progress of international arbitration up to the present time. This subject is attracting an ever increasing number of thinking people thruout the civilized world.

Kinships were the basis of primitive society. From these, tribes were formed, each separate and independent of the other. As the tribe increased in numbers and power, or united with others from necessity of defence, they became nations.

In the earlier days these nations were, without exception, ruled by an absolute monarch, who was the government, itself. Wars were then carried on till one or the other power was completely annihilated or subjugated and its people made slaves or massacred. Civilization brought with it, mercy to the vanquished, and gave the common citizen the right to have his say as to how his government was to act. Christianity, introduced into a nation, seemed to give a great accelerating force to its civilization and since its beginning, marked advance has been made towards settling international disputes by arbitration, rather than war.

The nineteenth century was a notable one in the world's history. A number of the most powerful nations settled all their disputs by arbitration. Several conferences were held for the

purpose of discussing rules governing the relations of one nation to another. The best known of these were the Conference at Paris, in 1856; the Geneva Convention, in 1864; and the Brussels Assembly in 1874.

In 1897, (also in the nineteenth century) the first Hague conference was called together by the Czar of Russia. At that time, it became known as the International Peace Conference. A permanent court of Arbitration was established, together with an International Bureau to serve as a record office and secretariate, under control of a Permanent Administrative Council. The questions of disarmament, compulsory arbitration, rules governing the conduct of nations during peace and war, and covenants between nations, were discussed and progress made. A second conference was held in 1907. It established a Judicial Arbitration Court, with permanent judges appointed by the Conference.

In 1902, a movement was started to obtain funds for a building to house this Conference and its Courts. Through the generosity, largely, of Andrew Carnegie, the building was assured. A program was made, giving the requirements; prizes were offered for the best solutions and an international competition held in 1905. L. M. Cordonnier of Lille, France, took the first prize and after a few changes his design was accepted and the building started. At this date it is not completed.

The results of this competition were not satisfactory and no suitable solution was given. For this reason, I have

attempted to solve it, in this thesis. A few changes were made in the original program and they are these,-

1. No consideration is given to the cost, or limits given to the site.
2. The different rooms are placed differently in relation to each other.
3. The heating plant is provided for in a separate building.
4. The two arbitration court rooms are made the same size.
5. A large convention hall is added.

PROGRAM

It is proposed to erect a suitable building at the Hague, to house the International Peace Conference, and the Courts of Arbitration formed by it. The site is a prominent one in the city, well elevated and extensive. The cost is given no consideration

The building is to be of reinforced concrete; faced with marble and the best materials to be used thruout. The Court rooms, convention hall and accessories are to occupy the front of the building and the library and business section, the rear. Entrances are to be provided for pedestrians and carriages and all approaches and promenades appropriately indicated and extensively planned.

It should indicate a three-fold character; that of a Court House, with its dignity; that of a monument to peace; with its grandeur; and that of an educational building.

The Requirements are the following,-

Court House Section.

Basement

1. Room for controlling the heat-(Heating plant in a separate building.)
2. Janitors' apartments.
3. Rooms for servants, stenographers, messengers etc.
4. Wardrobes, toilets and waiting rooms.
5. spare rooms.

Main Story.

1. Prominant Main Entrance Vestibule.
2. Hall of Honor. space for Memorials.
3. stairways. main stairway. Private and Servant's stairway.
4. convention Hall for conferences and International conventions. space for the public.
5. committee Rooms with accessories near the convention Hall.
6. Public Reception Hall with Ante-rooms and carriage entrances.
7. Permanent Court of Arbitration with small public space.
8. Special Court of Arbitration similar to former.
9. committee rooms and offices in connection with the Court rooms.
10. Two, Two Party council Rooms with Private Rooms for each party adjoining.
11. Wardrobes, Messenger service, proper circulation and exits.

Second story.

1. Private Offices of Judges over the Party Council Rooms.
2. Secretaries' rooms.
3. Committee rooms near the convention Hall.
4. offices for the President of the conference and his secretaries.
5. Council room for the Administration.
6. Wardrobes etc.

Library and Business section.

Basement

1. room for controlling the heat.
2. Janitors apartments. rooms for servants and messengers.
3. secretaries offices.
4. Driveway from street to interior court.
5. Storage and Packing Rooms under the Stack room. Receiving Cataloguing rooms.
6. small Printing plant. Bookbinder room.
7. spare rooms, Toilets, wardrobes etc.

Main Story.

1. Library Reading Rooms, two large and a number of smaller ones.
2. private Study rooms.
3. Map room.
4. Library stack room, extending to roof.
5. Main Hall and stairway in Library.
6. Carnegie Foundation rooms. Board of Directors, waiting and clerk rooms.
7. Offices for secretaries, Librarian etc.
8. Treasury Department, Offices and Vault.
9. Department of Records. Offices and vault.
10. Council rooms for business committees.
11. Three Lecture Rooms.
12. wardrobes, etc.

Second story.

1. Large main reading room.
2. Continuation of the stack room and upper part of stair hall.

Drawings.

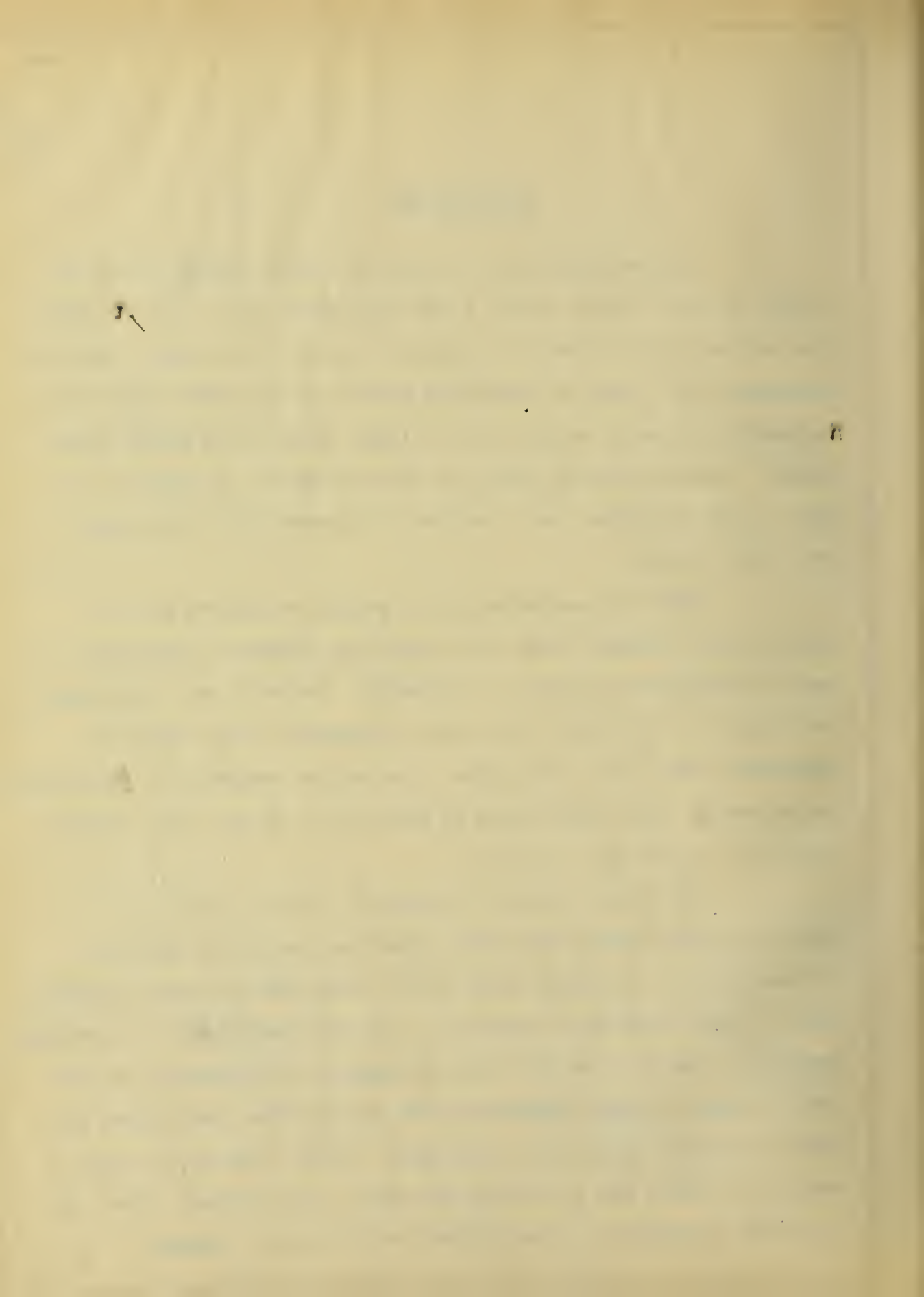
1. The first Floor Plan scale $1/32$ in. 1 ft.
2. The Front Elevation " $1/16$ in. 1 ft.
3. The Longitudinal Section $1/32$ in. 1 ft.
- 4.

DESCRIPTION.

As one approaches the site of the building, from the front, he first comes to the broad boulevard upon which it faces, its central axis marked by a splendid monument to Peace. Smaller monuments and pieces of sculpture mark axes of lesser importance. Narrower boulevards inclose the building site on the other three sides. Rising from the level of these streets, to that of the base of the building, are a series of terraces and promenades, one above another.

Upon contemplating the imposing structure, one is immediately impressed with the three-fold character indicated. It has the combined elements of monumental, judicial and educational buildings. It is built in a modern classical style, and the different parts well harmonized. The entire exterior is faced with white marble with suggestions of color, only in the roof, windows, and small decorative features.

The front facade is composed of three principal pavilions, the central one the largest and marked by the main entrance with a triumphal arch effect, and crowned by an octagonal dome of very dignified character. The outline of the side elevation gradually lowers in height till it reaches the library. In the Court House, the part containing the Arbitration Court Rooms and offices is carried up only one story. In the Library, the wings around the Court are also only one story. The library front has a similar treatment to that of the Boston Public Library.



Passing thru the main entrance, one is immediately ushered into the great Hall of Honor under the Dome. The pilaster and cornices with the panels up to the dome are faced with different colored marbles and the floor, as that thruout the public portion of the building, is of marble set in mosaic patterns. The panels of the dome are decorated with paintings, significant of Peace, lighted at night by a large indirect electric light. Niches and places of interest are marked by memorials.

To the right and left of this hall are the Permanent and Special Arbitration Courts, respectively, with the offices in back of them, and the Party Council rooms and offices of the Judges, beyond. The Court rooms and Council Rooms are decorated with marbles and decorated plaster panels. The furnishings are luxuriant and impressive.

Back of the Memorial Hall is the grand Stairway, leading to the second story; and the large convention Hall, flanked by committee rooms. The decoration of these rooms is similar to that of the Court Rooms. Elliptical arches span the ceiling in the Hall, springing from the large piers on either side. The president's chair is opposite the main entrance, and is backed by a large public space with a gallery for spectators. There are ample exits from this portion of the building.

Back of this Hall are the Public Reception Rooms and accessories, with a carriage entrance at the end of each corridor leading from the front. Above these are the Council Room for the

Administration, and the offices for the President and Secretary of the Peace Conference.

To the left, from these rooms are the offices of Records and Treasury Departments in order named. The Carnegie Foundation rooms and Board of Directors are also in this wing. To the right from the Reception rooms are Secretaries' office, Lecture, Study, Committee and smaller Reading Rooms. This part is faced with marble with plaster panels between all pilasters; all carried out plainly and neatly.

The Library portion is directly across the interior court from the Reception Rooms and has a prominent main entrance of its own. From this entrance one reaches a spacious hall leading to a stairway. On either side of this hall are reading rooms, and back of it is the main stack room. The large main reading room occupies the whole front of the library on the second floor. This portion is decorated in a dignified way and the decorative panels quite conspicuous. The stack room is plainly constructed and is not decorated.

The whole building has been carefully planned and the arrangement of the parts thought the best for the solution of the problem. The plan covers an area 570 feet frontage by 670 feet depth. The dome is 96 feet in diameter and 190 feet high above the street level.

THE CONSTRUCTION.

The Construction of this building has been given carefully consideration, the most approved style chosen, and the best materials used.

The entire area is excavated to the proper depth for a twelve foot ceiling in the basement.

All the footings, basement walls, and bearing walls above, are of concrete. The footings are reinforced with rails and the piers, bearing extra load, with corrugated bars. The floors are of concrete, reinforced by mesh wire and supported on concrete beams. The roof is of the same, only lighter and resting on a steel frame imbedded in the concrete. All the terrace walls, and footings and bed for the steps and promenades are of concrete also.

The floors thruout the public portion are finished with slabs of marble cut to form patterns. The other rooms are of tile, except the reading rooms which have cork floors, and stack room which is of glass. The roof is covered with tile.

The exterior walls are faced with gray granite up to the first floor level, and white marble from there up. The interior walls are faced with different colored marbles and plaster panels, decorated suitably. The steps are of granite, the promenades and walks of cement, and the terrace walls faced with gray limestone. The exterior columns are of solid marble and those on the interior of granite or marble.

The dome is constructed of four heavy reinforced concrete

half arches, springing from the four heavy concrete piers at the corners, and meeting at the apex. From the piers between the openings in the drum, there spring other lighter reinforced concrete half arches, parallel and intercepted by the main arches. The spaces between these are bridged with tile and the whole exterior faced with white marble slabs.

steel trusses resting on reinforced concrete piers are used in the roof over the court rooms and convention hall and also in the library.

All of the window and door trims, of the first and second floor, are of marble. The doors and window sash are of dark mahogany, thruout, except the convention hall, court rooms and council rooms, which are in dark oak. Brass hardware and fixtures are used. All the furnishings are to correspond with the wood-work.

Plumbing.

All the piping is of the best wrought iron, nickel plated, and exposed. The fixtures are all of the best vitrified tile, the lavatories topped with marble. The sewer, vent, and drain pipes are all of cast iron.

Electric Lighting.

The electric wiring is laid in conduits thruout the building, and the lighting in the public rooms is all indirect. Tungsten lamps are used thruout and the amount of light figured on the mean lighting basis. The fixtures are of brass, except those outside, which are of cast iron.

Heating.

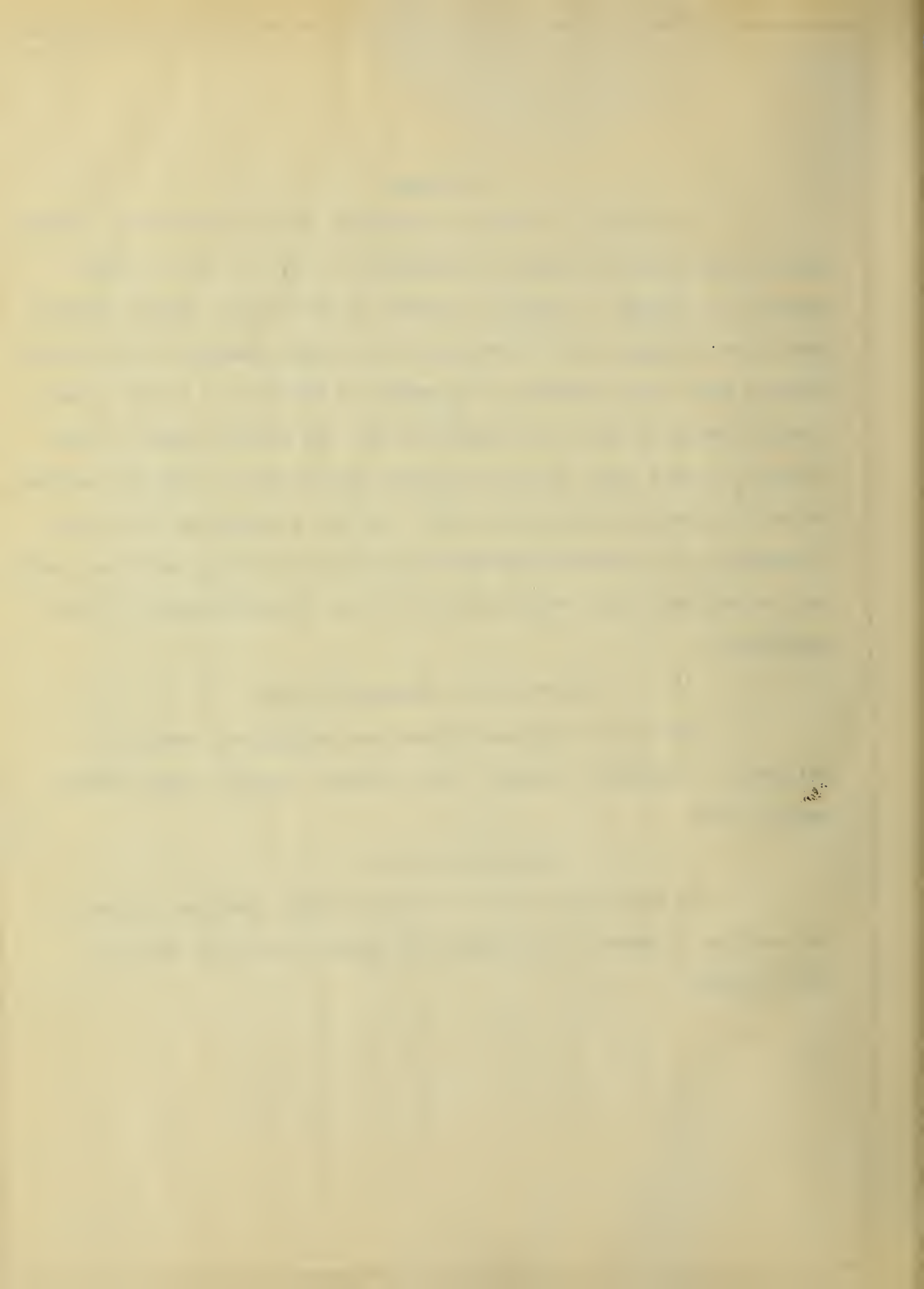
The amount of direct radiation, or its equivalent necessary to heat this building is estimated at 150,000 sq. ft. The heating is brought in from a separate building, and spread thruout, from distributing rooms. Enough direct steam radiation is figured to heat the whole building. In addition, there is a large enough plenum system to heat and ventilate all the public rooms. This is done, so that they can be properly ventilated in the hot weather, as well as heated during the cold. In the convention hall, the entering air is distributed from openings under the seats and taken out at the back. All this piping is to be of galvanized iron and concealed.

Other Modern Accommodations.

All modern accommodations are installed, such as telephone, telegraph, vacuum tube systems, electric push button calls, etc.

Estimated Cost.

The estimated cost of this building complete, based on the cubical contents at seventy five cents per cubic foot is \$8,500,000.



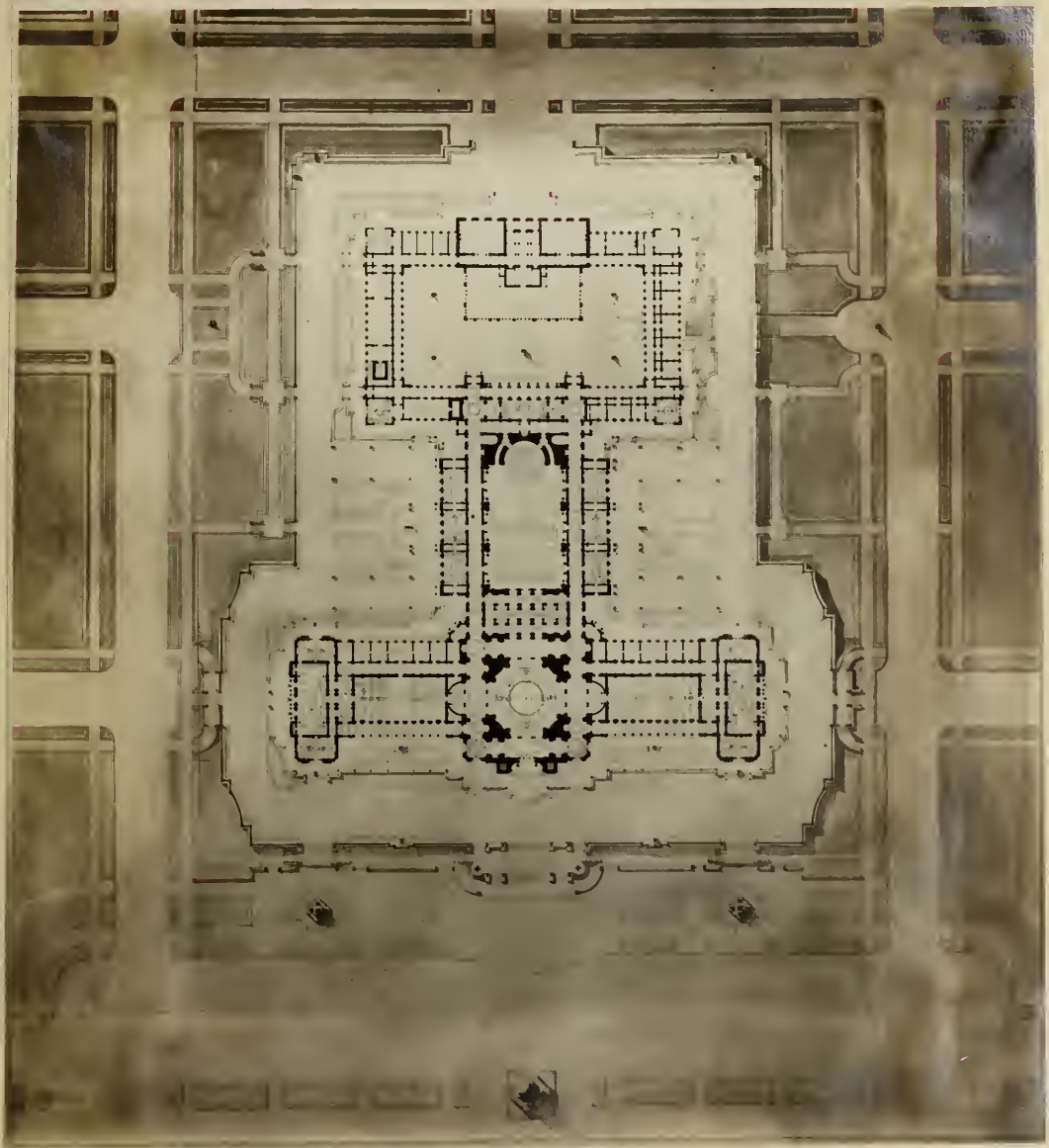
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